



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

For Immediate Release: Oct. 27, 2004
Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/ 232-3396
Angie Nussmeyer, 317/ 233-5050

Indiana joins national marketing campaign to hire veterans; more than 16,000 vets already employed through state programs

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Capping off more than a year of veterans employment initiatives, today Gov. Joe Kernan proclaimed November as “Hire a Vet Month” in Indiana and announced Indiana’s participation in a national marketing campaign to assist veterans in finding employment.

“As our military personnel return to civilian life, we must do everything we can to support them and get them back into the workforce,” Kernan said. “Indiana has a variety of programs that are available to assist our service people during the transition back to the workforce, including offering employment information through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. We must make every effort to make our veterans aware of these resources.”

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development’s (DWD) Veteran’s Services unit is distributing 10,000 stickers to Hoosier businesses that have hired veterans. With the slogan, “Don’t Forget, Hire a Vet,” the stickers are to be displayed on the front windows and doors of Hoosier businesses. In addition, agency staff members will meet with local businesses throughout the state in an effort to promote the work experience and advanced technological skills many military personnel can bring to private-sector positions.

“Our veterans are among our most capable workers,” said DWD Commissioner Al Degner. “They have years of experience in all kinds of situations, training in advanced skills and strong educations. These are prime candidates for most jobs – and we hope this effort will lead to increased job placements.”

The “Hire a Vet” proclamation and sticker campaign in Indiana are part of a larger national ‘Hire Vets First’ campaign that was initiated by National Hire Veterans Committee. This committee is the result of bipartisan legislation passed in the 107th Congress to create a priority services for veterans, and some spouses, who meet the eligibility requirements for participation in training programs, including those offered by DWD.

Through DWD’s 27 WorkOne Centers, Hoosier veterans have access to information on how to apply for civil service positions, direct referral to job openings, job search information, information on veterans employment benefits, rights and preferences, and case management of Chapter 31 veterans among others.

In September, Indiana added another program, as it became the first state in the nation to bring together all building trade unions to offer veterans opportunities in apprenticeship training programs as part of the national ‘Helmets to Hardhats’ initiative. Through this program, veterans can work toward an associate degree at Ivy Tech State College and eventually become part of the booming construction industry in Indiana.

-more-

'Hire a Vet' campaign/ add 1

From July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, local veteran's employment representatives and disabled veterans outreach program specialists at the local WorkOne Centers helped 16,283 veterans and eligible persons find employment and registered 32,279 veterans and eligible persons for employment services and benefits.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-416 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

###

“HIRE A VETERAN MONTH” PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout their rich history, the men and women who serve in the U. S. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard have responded immediately and effectively, whenever called upon to defend our national security at home or abroad, placing the national interests above their own; and

WHEREAS, of the more than 48 million of these citizen soldiers who have served the United States of America, more than a million have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives, and another 1.5 million have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, today our men and women in uniform put their lives at risk daily, seeking to secure the gift of freedom and liberty for oppressed people around the globe; and

WHEREAS, in 1944 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the G. I. Bill into law, he observed that more than anything else American serviceman and women wanted “the assurance of satisfactory employment upon their return to civilian life;” and

WHEREAS, today’s veterans deserve the same economic opportunities as their predecessors, and can bring to the modern workplace the benefits of skills, education, leadership, maturity and dedication learned in military service;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. KERNAN, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2004, as

“HIRE A VETERAN MONTH”

in the State of Indiana, and encourage all businesses in the state to provide employment opportunities to those who have served in the Armed Forces.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana at the Capitol in Indianapolis on this 18th day of October, 2004.

BY THE GOVERNOR: Joseph E. Kernan
Governor of Indiana

ATTEST: Todd Rokita
Secretary of State